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LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter of 28 February 1994 (S/1994/228), I have the honour to transmit to you the communiqué of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the border dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon.

I should be grateful if you would have this communiqué circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pascal BILOA TANG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English]

Communiqué dated 24 March 1994 issued by the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, at the level of ministers

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, met in its second ordinary session, at the ministerial level, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 24 March 1994, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Amre Moussa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt. It reviewed the various conflict situations in Africa, and considered ways and means by which OAU could tackle them. The Central Organ adopted the report of its first ordinary session that was held on 17 and 18 November 1993, and also approved the report submitted by the Ambassadors of that body on the implementation of decisions and resolutions relating to the work of the Central Organ since the Cairo Summit of June 1993.

I. CONFLICT SITUATIONS

A. Angola

The Central Organ appreciated the comprehensive briefing given by the Angolan Minister for Foreign Affairs. It noted that progress had been made in the previously adopted agenda, particularly on the military aspect thereof.

On the political aspects, the Lusaka negotiations are encountering some difficulties, which have created an impasse arising from the offer made by the Government to the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola for the latter to participate in the institutions of State. The meeting commended the efforts exerted by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in maintaining the momentum of the Lusaka talks.

The Central Organ requested the Secretary-General of OAU to monitor the negotiations process closely and explore ways through which OAU could be of assistance in the peace process.

B. Liberia

The Central Organ appreciated the update on Liberia given by the OAU Eminent Person to Liberia, the Reverend C. Banana. It took note of the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement, particularly the setting up of the transitional institutions and the commencement of the process of disarmament. It called on all the parties in Liberia to accelerate the process of disarmament and proceed with the full implementation of the Cotonou Accords. It urged the Secretary-General, through the Eminent Person, to continue to monitor the transition process in Liberia until democratic elections are held in that country.

C. Somalia

The meeting, reaffirming the position of OAU contained in the resolution of the fifty-ninth session of the OAU Council of Ministers, expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Current Chairman of OAU, President Hosni Mubarak, and the Secretary-General of OAU, to bring about national reconciliation in Somalia. The Central Organ also lauded the efforts of Ato Meles Zenawi, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, to assist various Somali factions to overcome the obstacles hindering national reconciliation in Somalia.

The Central Organ took note of the Declaration by the leaders of the Somali political organizations signed in Nairobi, on 24 March 1994, by the various Somali political organizations. The Central Organ believed that this Declaration is a watershed in the resumption of dialogue among the various parties. The meeting urged them to proceed with the course of common action which is envisaged in the Declaration, leading to a National Reconciliation Conference and the election of a President and Vice-Presidents, the appointment of a Prime Minister, the establishment of an independent judiciary, as well as the completion and review of the formation of local authorities, where needed, and their establishment, where necessary.

II. OTHER CONFLICTS

A. Congo

The meeting took note of the role played by the OAU Secretary-General in resolving the impasse in the Congo, through his Special Envoy as well as several missions from the General Secretariat. It also paid tribute to the contributive role played by President Omar Bongo of Gabon in the entire process. It urged the various parties in the Congo to consolidate the gains made in the course of the transition to a democratic dispensation in that country. It further urged the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the democratic process in the Congo, in order to ensure that there is no relapse or reversal in the process.

B. Rwanda

The Central Organ took note of the progress made in the peace process, leading to the signing of the Arusha Peace Agreement. It however was deeply concerned by the lack of progress in the installation of the transitional institutions provided for in the Arusha Peace Agreement. It decided to issue a special appeal to all the parties in Rwanda for progress to be made in the implementation of the provisions of the Arusha Peace Agreement.

C. Burundi

The Central Organ took note of the comprehensive briefing made by the Secretary-General. It also appreciated the update, made by the Burundi delegation.

The Central Organ was deeply concerned by the deteriorating security situation in Burundi, particularly by reports of escalating violence involving mass killings. The meeting requested the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the situation in Burundi and seek to establish contact with the Burundi Government in order to verify the true state of the current political and security situation. It further urged the Secretary-General to maintain contacts with the five member States contributing military personnel to the OAU Mission in Burundi (OMIB), the donor countries, as well as all other interested parties.

III. BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN NIGERIA AND CAMEROON

The Central Organ noted that it was now formally seized with the dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon over the Bakassi Peninsula. It had listened carefully to the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon. It had listened to a statement by the representative of Nigeria. It had listened to the representative of the current Chairman of OAU and had taken note of the report prepared by the Secretariat on the question.

The Central Organ, while expressing grave concern at the escalating situation and the implications for the two countries and the region as a whole, took note with satisfaction of the position of the two parties that they are for a peaceful settlement of the dispute. In this connection, the Central Organ underscored the importance of achieving a peaceful settlement based on the charters of the United Nations and OAU. It reaffirmed its attachment to the respect of the principle of the inviolability of frontiers inherited from the colonial period. It also reaffirmed its attachment to the respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of all States.

The Central Organ called upon the parties to exercise restraint and to take appropriate measures to restore confidence, including the consideration of the withdrawal of troops and continuation of dialogue.

The Central Organ took note, with appreciation, of the continued efforts undertaken by President Mubarak, President of Egypt, Current Chairman of OAU, and President Edyadma of Togo aimed at defusing the situation and reaching a peaceful settlement.

The Central Organ requested the Secretary-General to follow the situation and to report, within a month, on the outcome of these efforts.